

Avon and the Citizen Patrol were not Mrs. Isley's only passions. She was also a member of the Camarillo Christian Church and a volunteer for the American Red Cross for more than 20 years.

She was also a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in honoring the memory of Barbara Rose Isley as a woman of strength and dedication whose work will continue to have a positive effect on her community, her friends and her family.

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TERRORISM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3485, the Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act. This legislation strengthens federal laws designed to combat state sponsored terrorism, and I am pleased that it is finally coming before the entire House for a vote.

The United States justice system is the envy of the world. We pride ourselves on affording due process to all who come before the court while simultaneously ensuring that no one is above the law. Confidence in our judiciary is the cornerstone of our democracy. Citizens need to know that if they are harmed, the government will stand behind them. This confidence is especially important when Americans are abroad.

This principle was behind passage of the 1996 antiterrorism bill. The legislation gave American citizens injured by an act of terrorism the right to bring a private lawsuit against the terrorist state responsible for the act. Three years later Congress approved legislation which allowed the attachment of assets of terrorist states to satisfy judgements. The President was given a waiver in that bill which allowed him to block attachment of assets if it was in the interest of national security.

H.R. 3485 allows victims of terrorism to satisfy judgements against foreign states by allowing assets frozen by the U.S. to be subject to attachment. The bill shields diplomatic property from attachment, but does not protect any property which has been used for any non-diplomatic purpose including rental property.

This issue has special importance for me because a native of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania has been trying to achieve some justice in this area of the law since his kidnapping almost 15 years ago. Mr. Joseph Cicippio was an employee at the American University in Beirut. On September 12, 1986, he was kidnapped by terrorists and held hostage for five years under terrible conditions including threats of death, physical violence and brutal interrogation.

In 1997, Joseph Cicippio brought a suit under the 1996 terrorism bill against the Islamic Republic of Iran for his injuries. He received a judgement for \$20 million in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Unfortunately, he has not received any portion of this judgement. The Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act would go a long way toward help-

ing Mr. Cicippio and other plaintiffs like him who together have over \$650 million in judgements against Iran. This bill sends a signal loud and clear that justice for U.S. citizens will not stop at the water's edge.

FAMILY FARM SAFETY NET ACT

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2000

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to join Representative DAVID MINGE of Minnesota in introducing the Family Farm Safety Net Act. The Family Farm Safety Net Act is designed to permanently extend the availability of marketing assistance loans, raise the loan rates of all commodities and make the loan rates more equitable with each other. This legislation, which is supported by the National Farmers Union, the North Dakota Farmers Union, and the National Barley Growers Association, will go a long way in providing additional assistance to our nation's family farmers.

As we all know, our nation's federal farm policy has been a disaster, mostly because of its removal of a price safety net to protect our nation's farmers in times of low prices and bad weather. In many ways, the Northern Plains and especially my home State of North Dakota represents ground zero in the farm crisis, having experienced the twin evils of production loss caused by severe weather and rock-bottom commodity prices.

In 1996 when Congress passed Freedom to Farm, farm prices were at near record highs. In 1996, wheat was \$4.30 per bushel, soybeans were at \$7.35 per bushel, and corn was \$2.71 per bushel. Total net farm income for 2000 is projected to be only \$40.4 billion, nearly \$14 billion below what it was in 1996. And, according to the University of Missouri's Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI), by 2009, net farm income will fall to \$37 billion if the current farm program is not changed. Moreover, in 2000, direct government payments through the form of Agricultural Market Transition Act (AMTA) payments and market loss assistance payments will be more than \$16 billion, nearly 40 percent of total farm income.

I opposed this legislation because of my fear of exactly what we are seeing now—the abysmal collapse of commodity prices and the lack of a safety net to protect farmers. At the time, opposing Freedom to Farm was not a politically popular position. Many believed that the opponents were afraid of change and not willing to allow the farmer to take advantage of the free market. Today, 4 years after its passage, my fear has come true. Wheat is now selling at \$2.54 per bushel—a 40 percent drop in price. Corn is now selling at \$1.36 per bushel—a 50 percent drop in price, and soybeans are now selling at \$4.82—a 34 percent drop in price.

Our legislation is quite simple. It raises the loan rate levels of all commodities by making the loan rates more equitable and extends the lengths of the terms of the loan period from 9 to 20 months. Our legislation restores a price safety net by creating loan rates that are more reflective of producers' costs of production and by providing producers with more

time to best determine when to sell their grain in today's volatile market.

Under our legislation the loan rate for wheat, which is the largest commodity grown in North Dakota, will be raised from \$2.58 per bushel to \$3.40 per bushel. Through this increase in the loan rate for wheat, North Dakota's family farmers will see an average of nearly \$19 per acre more in a loan deficiency payment (LDP) for their wheat. And, if the Family Farm Safety Net were law during the 1999 crop year, North Dakota wheat producers would have received an additional \$200 million in LDPs.

This legislation makes the loan rates for all the commodities more comparable to each other. Under the current farm bill, the loan rate for soybeans is \$5.26 and the loan rate for wheat is only \$2.58. This distortion in loan rates is causing the market to become distorted because many producers are being forced to grow soybeans as their only hopes of "breaking even." As a result of this distortion in loan rates, soybean acreage in the United States has grown more than 10.5 million acres to all-time record of 73.1 million acres since the passage of the farm bill. No other example of this is more evident than in my home State of North Dakota where soybean acreage has grown by more than 100 percent since the passage of the farm bill.

As Congress begins to consider alternatives for its next farm bill, I believe the Family Farm Safety Net is the right step to provide a safety net for America's producers who have suffered so severely the last four years. I look forward to working with my colleagues on our efforts to assist our nation's family farmers.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES EDISON BROWN

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2000

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a wonderful man, Dr. James Edison Brown. Dr. Brown was a terrific physician and a loving family man. I have had the privilege of working with his daughter Trinita on transportation issues in the House of Representatives, and I can attest that this apple has not fallen far from the tree. Dr. Brown's list of accomplishments is endless. However, contributions to his community and his triumph over the barriers of a society which tried to limit him are what impress me most. It is with honor and sadness that I pay tribute to Dr. James Edison Brown.

I submit the following passage for the RECORD:

Dr. James Edison Brown, the first black Ophthalmologist trained in the state of New Jersey, died Friday June 30, after a short illness.

Born in Camden, South Carolina, the youngest son of the late Willie Carlos and Mamie Ballard Brown, he graduated as the valedictorian of Jackson High School at age 15 and made his way from the segregated South to New York City with less than \$20 in his pocket.

Brown hoped things would be better in the North. While he worked to convince the best universities in New York City to admit him, he took a variety of jobs in an effort to save